"HISTORICAL SKETCH"

READ, IN PART, AT THE

THIRD ANNUAL REUNION

OF THE

PRESENT AND PAST

RESIDENTS OF CHARLTON,

AT CHARLTON, SEPT. 4, 1899.

By HON. RUFUS B. DODGE.

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HISTORICAL SKETCH.

In 1682, Robert Thompson, William Stoughton, Joseph Dudley and such others as they might associate with them, were granted a tract of land containing about 42,000 acres, which was called Oxford. About 12,000 acres of the eastern portion was set off and given to settlers. This part was called the Village and the dividing line the Village Line. In 1688, these grantees, with Daniel Cox and James Blackwell, who had been associated with them, caused that part of the grant lying west of the village line to be

divided into five equal parts and it was determined by lot which each should take. And it was stipulated in a deed of partition that Thomas Freak and the said John Blackwell should each take two-sevenths of the tract that fell to Daniel Cox.

By this division Joseph Dudley took a strip about one and one-half miles wide, on the south side of the tract, containing about six thousand acres.

North of Dudley's land, John Blackwell took an equal quantity, extending from the village line to Sturbridge.

William Stoughton took a like quantity north of Blackwell's land. North of Stoughton's land Blackwell took a second lot of about seventeen hundred acres.

North of Blackwell's second lot, Daniel Cox took about twenty-six hundred acres. North of the lot taken by Cox, Thomas

Freak took about seventeen hundred acres.

Robert Thompson had the remaining lot, which contained about six thousand acres, and lay between Freak's lot and the "Country Gore" so called.

January 10, 1755, all these tracts of land, except that set to Joseph Dudley, which was taken to form a part of Dudley when that town was incorporated, lying one mile west of the village line, were set off from Oxford to form the district of Charlton, with all the powers and privileges enjoyed by towns, that of sending a representative to the General Assembly only excepted.

In 1757, that part of the large tract of land called the "Country Gore," lying north of the district of Charlton, was annexed.

In 1730, Edward Kitchen become the owner of that tract of land which by division of 1688 was set off to Thomas Freak.

This lot was 128 rods wide on the east line and about 113 rods on the west line and extended from the village line to Sturbridge, being nearly seven and one-half miles in length.

He divided this land into seventeen lots of one hundred acres each. The purchasers of these lots were some of the earliest settlers of this town, and came mainly from Salem and vicinity.

Obadiah *McIntire, Ebenezer McIntire and Moses Aborn each become the owner of one of these lots in 1733.

The lot bought by Obadiah McIntire is now owned by David O. Horne.

Obadiah McIntire was, for that time, a man of considerable wealth and a member of the first board of selectmen.

Charlton Centre was all located on Ebenezer McIntire's hundred acre lot.

*This name is spelled Mackintier in old records.

In 1766, he deeded the town one acre of land for the "Meeting house to stand upon, for a training field and for no other use."

In March, 1764, he gave one acre, near the centre, for a burial ground; this, with subsequent additions, is still used as a cemetery.

In 1788, May 13th, the town voted to give Nathaniel McIntire four pounds ten shillings, for one-third acre of land to add to the common, the town agreeing to build a good and sufficient wall around said land so far as it joins said McIntire's and agreeing that there should never be any buildings set on said land.

There is nothing on record to show that the town ever had a deed of this third of an acre.

Ebenezer McIntire was one of the first

board of selectmen and prominent in all town affairs.

Wm. P. Marble, known as Squire Marble, and for many years one of the most influential citizens of Charlton, was a great grandson.

Charles J. McIntire, judge of probate of Middlesex county, is also a descendant, being of the fourth generation.

But comparatively little is known of Moses Aborn. He probably stayed here but a short time.

Samuel S. Pratt now owns the south part and Frank Prinier the north part of the Aborn lot.

A few feet east of the brick house owned and occupied by Prinier stood the house in which Dr. William T. G. Morton, the discoverer of the use of ether as an anæsthetic, was born, August 19, 1819.

Dr. Morton was doubtless the most famous man Charlton has produced, and a larger honor few places can count theirs.

Daniel McIntire bought two lots in 1734. These lots were situated easterly of the Solomon Richardson place in the east part of the town, and are now partly owned by Herbert K. Davidson.

Eleazer McIntire become the owner of a lot in 1743, and of a second and adjoining lot in 1765. These lots are in the westerly part of the town, and are now owned by the heirs of Ira Berry and others.

His descendants were quite numerous and noted for their longevity. A great granddaughter, Mrs. Diana Douty of Charlton, lived to the great age of 103 years, 9 months, 15 days.

Wm. H. Dexter, a native of Charlton and great great grandson of Eleazer McIntire, is one of the most successlul busi-

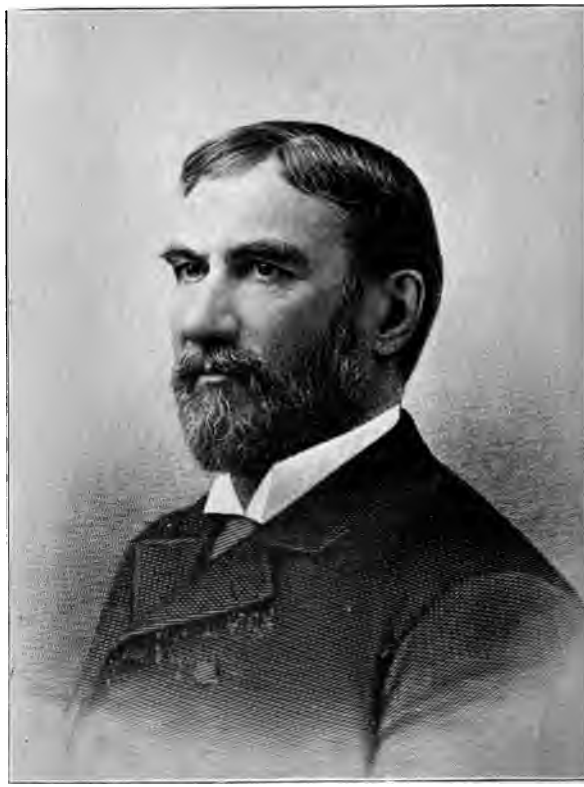
ness men of Worcester, where he has acquired a handsome fortune, and we trust will break the age record of Eleazer McIntire's descendants.

Ebenezer Twiss, Solomon Harwood, and James Twiss bought a lot in 1741. This lot was divided, Harwood becoming the owner of the west part, known as the Austin T. Phillips place, now occupied by Foster S. Ray.

Ebenezer and James Twiss had the east part, which includes the northerly part of the Alfred Mower place, now occupied by Herbert L. Nichols.

Ebenezer Twiss was the great grandfather of Judge Stephen P. Twiss, who was at one time city solicitor of the city of Worcester, and who now resides in Kansas City, Missouri.

John Stevens, of Danvers, bought a lot in 1752, the place now owned by Wm. D.



Alban N. Towne.

Horne. John Stevens was the great grandfather of Daniel and Charles P. Stevens, well-known business men of Worcester; also of Dr. Wm. T. G. Morton.

The first settlement of the town was undoubtedly by some of the purchasers of the Kitchen land.

Richard Dresser, of Thompson, bought land on what is now called Dresser Hill, in 1735. This land is now owned by Darius W. Baker.

Richard Dresser was the first town clerk of Charlton and held the office eleven years. He was captain of a company which marched from Charlton to the relief of Fort Henry in 1757. With him were nine McIntires.

Several of his descendants are men of considerable note. His son, Moses Dresser, was an enterprising business man, and his grandson, Harvey Dresser, was considered

a man of remarkable business ability. Both Moses and Harvey Dresser owned and occupied the land originally purchased by Richard. The farm, then containing 200 acres, was sold March 7, 1788, by Richard Dresser to his son Moses, for one thousand pounds silver money.

Chester A. Dresser, late of Southbridge, was the great grandson of Richard Dresser.

Alban N. Towne, who was a native of Charlton and a railroad man of national reputation, was his great great grandson.

As Dr. Morton was the most famous, so we may fairly say that Alban N. Towne was, all things considered, the most successful of Charlton's sons, carrying her name and giving her a reputation across this continent to the Pacific coast.

John Dresser, probably a brother of Richard, bought land lying westerly and adjoining Richard's in 1739, a part of

which is now the Jeremiah Holmes place.

He served the warrant for the first town meeting held in Charlton, and was one of the committee of correspondence—in revolutionary days, a position of the most vital importance and demanding the most unflinching patriotism.

John Dresser was the great grandfather of Sylvester Dresser, late of Southbridge, a successful business man and well known to people of Charlton. Also of Daniel Phillips, now living in Hartford, and nearly ninety years of age, who became prominent in connection with the organization of Adams Express Company, and some of the largest banking and insurance companies of Hartford, and who has accumulated considerable wealth.

Moses Dresser Phillips, another great grandson, founder of the Atlantic Monthly, was for many years at the head of

the firm, Phillips, Sampson & Co., publishers, at Boston. The first part of his business life was spent in Worcester, where he was a member of the board of aldermen in 1852 and 1853.

The Dresser descendants can probably show more in number of successful business men than any other Charlton family.

Richard Blood, of Bellingham, bought in 1736 the farm now owned by Edward D. Blood. The well-known Blood family are all descendants of Richard.

Ebenezer Foskett, of Stoneham, bought in 1739, the farm now owned by his great grandson, Dan Foskett. He was one of the early selectmen and of the committee of correspondence.

Dr. George M. Foskett, of Worcester, and Dr. Eben Foskett, of New York, are among his descendants.

William Alton, of Thompson, bought in 1742, land which was afterward set off to the town of Southbridge, and is now owned by George Lyon. He was the father of Captain Benjamin Alton, who served in the revolution. William Alton and his wife Mary are buried on the old homestead, in what is now a mowing lot, a few rods from the highway, rough flat stones marking the graves, lettered simply "W. A." and "M. A." These graves are alone, no other person being buried in that vicinity. A fit resting place for these pioneers, is this spot of their labor; more eloquent than massive monuments are these simple headstones, doubtless taken from the fields they loved so well. Care should be taken that these graves be not forgotten or desecrated.

Jonathan Tucker, of Roxbury, in 1735, became the owner of land now owned by Daniel H. Tucker, his great grandson.

He was elected selectman at the first meeting held for the election of officers after the Gore was annexed, and he held the office many years. In 1774 he was chosen a delegate to attend the provincial congress at Concord and in 1775 at Cambridge.

He was captain of a company, probably from Charlton, during the French and Indian war. He was the ancestor of all the Charlton Tuckers. His sons, William and Jonathan, Jr., were both officers in the revolution, and William held many town offices. He was chosen moderator of some of the town meetings, and a partial record of one may be interesting as showing the relation of the town to the church, and also indicating that Jonathan Tucker was a man of strong will.

A warrant for a town meeting to be held in Charlton, March 25, 1776, contained articles as follows:

"To see if the town will vote the privilege of non-voters to act on this warrant."

"To see if the town will vote to concur with the vote of the church of the eleventh of March, A. D. 1776, (viz:) to dismiss the Reverend Calab Curtis from his pastoral relation to the congregation, and to pay him the interest of what money he has lain out for four years back from the 15th of March, 1775, and interest for what is now due till paid."

"To see if the town will vote to call a council of neighboring churches to dissolve the relation, if concurred."

The records of the doings of the meeting are as follows:

"At a meeting of the inhabitants of Charlton regularly assembled at our meeting-house, on Monday, the twenty-fifth day of March, 1776, at twelve of the clock at noon, to act on the articles in the preceding warrant."

"Voted and chose Capt. Jonathan Tucker moderator of said meeting."

"Voted privilege to non-voters to act on this warrant."

"It was then requested to the moderator respectedly that the next article might be decided by a division of the house. The moderator refused, respectedly, saying 'I wont.' The moderator then ordered every man to write his name on his vote with the word 'go' or 'stay' annexed to it. Then voted to concur with the vote of the church of the eleventh of March, 1776, and it passed in negative—forty-six goes and sixty-one stays."

There also appears among the records the following votes in reference to Capt. Tucker's service as a provincial congressman:

"1775, Oct. 23. Voted and allowed Capt. Tucker's account for his expenses while

Bellevue House. Burned in 1885.

Bellevue House. Burned in 1885.

attending congress, amounting to five pounds, 19 shillings, nine pence. Voted and allowed Capt. Tucker for 38 days' attendance at congress, 1 pound, 18 shillings. The last sum above mentioned Capt. Tucker gave to the town."

Jonas and Ebenezer Hammond, of Newton, were both deeded land in the Gore, by their father, Nathaniel Hammond, of Newton, in 1739. This comprised three hundred acres lying west of the Jonathan Tucker land, Jonas having the south half and Ebenezer the north.

All the Charlton Hammonds are descendants of Ebenezer, the family being one of the most prominent and successful.

John G. Hammond, the great grandson of Ebenezer, was for some years district attorney for the Hampshire district.

Jonathan Wheelock, of Mendon, purchsed

land in the Gore in 1755, now owned by Edgar J. Salisbury and others. He was chosen treasurer at the first meeting after the Gore was annexed. His son Eli built the large house at the North Side, used as an inn in the days of stage coaches, it being situated on the old Worcester and Stafford turnpike.

Paul and David Wheelock, of Mendon. were deeded by their father, Benjamin Wheelock, 150 acres of land each, in 1742, in the Gore. The land deeded Paul Wheelock is now owned by H. I. Gould; that to David is owned by J. W. Davis.

When the first meeting house in Charlton was completed, it was voted: "That the man who paid the highest tax on real estate towards the meeting house should have the first choice, paying the appraisal, and so on by succession until all were disposed of." By this arrangement the first four fell to tax payers in the following

order: Jacob Davis, Ebenezer Hammond, Jonas Hammond, Paul Wheelock.

The will of Paul Wheelock shows the estimate of a woman's needs in a family of means in 1776. To his wife he wills: "One room which she shall choose, with privilege in cellar, one-half of inside movables, to be at her disposal forever, fire wood cut for the fire at the door, two cows kept summer and winter, a horse to use whenever she pleases, shod and in order,—10 bu. corn, 6 rye, 2 wheat, 110 lbs. good pork, 100 weight good beef, 10 lbs. wool, 20 lbs. flax, 30 shillings cash every year, and if sick doctors and nurses, and necessaries for her comfort, and also the privilege of a seat in my pew in Charlton Meeting house."

Uriah Ward, of Marlboro, bought land in the Gore in 1743. Benjamin Ward, a brother of Uriah, bought adjoining land about the same time. This land was situated on the road from Copp's mill to No. 11 school-

house. Uriah's son Jonas built the second meeting house of Charlton, which was raised in June, 1798, and dedicated in 1799.

Rev. Julius H. Ward, D. D., for many years literary editor of the Boston Herald, and one of the most widely-known clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal church of New England, was a descendant of Uriah Ward. He was a remarkably able man and his life reflected great credit on our town.

Nehamiah Stone, of Newton, bought in 1746 one hundred and fifty acres in the Gore, now owned in part by Carlos Bond. He was town Clerk for fourteen years and treasurer seventeen years. E. I. Comins, of Worcester, is a descendant.

Ebenezer White, of Mendon, bought a lot in the Gore in 1776, afterwards owned by his great grandson, Charles D. White.

This place is situated north of Charlton Depot and is well known to most Charlton people.

Nathaniel Jones, of Sutton, to which place he came from Falmouth, Maine, bought in 1751, one hundred and fifty acres in the Gore, lying north of the place then owned by Nehamiah Stone, and west of Ebenezer Hammond's lot. A descendant, Phineas Jones, removed to New Jersey, where he acquired wealth in business and was elected to congress. Erastus Jones, of Spencer, who has the confidence of the entire community and is a capable and successful business man, is also a descendant.

Ebenezer Lamb, son of Ebenezer and grandson of Abial, of Oxford, purchased 300 acres of the Gore land in 1761, one-half of which he deeded to his brother Abijah the same year. He had, before that time,

lived in that part of the town set from Oxford, on land owned by himself or his father. His farm on the Gore land was afterward owned by his son Ebenezer and his grandsons Francis and Aaron and is now owned by Dwight M. Aldrich. A son, William, was a physician of note in Grafton and a son, Dan, well remembered by the older inhabitants, was also a physician and had for many years a large practice in Charlton and adjoining towns. Capt. Simeon Lamb, a grandson, was a man of prominence and held many town offices. Abijah Lamb, brother of Ebenezer, was Captain of a Charlton company in the war of the revolution. The farm on which he lived was, after his decease, owned by his son Abijah and is now owned by Charles Converse.

John Thompson, probably from Mendon,

Dr. William T. G. Morton.

bought 300 acres of land in the Gore in 1739, on which he settled. This tract of land was east of land then owned by Daniel Williams, later known as the Moses Williams place, and north of the farm of William Hammond. The Artemas Goddard place, now owned by James H. Bond 2nd, is part of this lot and the house now standing upon it, a very old one, was perhaps, built by Thompson. Two of his sons, John and Elijah, were Soldiers in the Revolutionary war.

James Blanchard, being then of the Country Gore, bought in 1755, seventy-five acres of the Gore land, bounded on the north partly by Brookfield.

His sons, Josiah and Joseph, were in service in the war of the Revolution. The Litchfields, of Southbridge, formerly of Charlton, the founders of the Southbridge

Shuttle Co., were descendants of James Blanchard and of John Thompson.

It will be noticed that three descendants of the original owners now occupy land owned by their ancestors. They are: Daniel H. Tucker, Edward D. Blood and Dan Foskett.

On the tenth day of February, 1755, Moses Marcy, Esq., issued his warrant to John Dresser requesting him to warn forthwith all the free holders and other inhabitants of the district of Charlton qualified according to law to vote in town affairs to meet at the dwelling house of Ebenezer Macintire on Wednesday, the twelfth day of March, at ten o'clock a. m. to elect such officers as the law requires and to see if the district would let their swine run at large the ensuing year.

At said meeting Richard Dresser was chosen district clerk; Richard Dresser

Lieut. Obadiah McIntire, Jonathan Ballard, John Dresser and Ebenezer McIntire were chosen selectmen; William Alton treasurer; Isaiah Blood constable; Samuel Streeter tythingman ; Nathaniel Blood, Nathaniel Mackintier, Nathaniel French surveyors of highway.

At a meeting held March 12, 1759, a number of roads that had been laid out by the selectmen were accepted.

The record is as follows: "Voted and accepted a road laid out from Leicester line to our meeting house plat. A road laid out from Richard Dresser's to our meeting house plat. A road laid out beginning at ye country road that runs across ye northwest corner of ye district and from that to one running southeast to our meeting house plat. A road laid out from Daniel Williams' and to Jonathan Wheelock's house. A road laid out from Spencer line running southerly to the road

that is laid out by John Thompson's house, the said road is brought in a little west of said Thompson's house. A road laid out from George Pike's to ye road running by Jonathan Wheelock's. A road yet begins about 40 rds. north of Ebenezer Macintire's fence in ye road yet comes from Ens. Wheelock's running northly to David Wheelock's."

The layouts by the selectmen were explicit enough if their lines were followed before the lapse of much time, but they would scarcely serve to guide us over the location at the present day. One of which will suffice to illustrate their methods of making these layouts, reads as follows: "Charlton, Jan. 5, 1759. Then the selectmen met and laid out a road beginning at Capt. Richard Dresser's north line a grate black oak the first mark marked with two chops which oak being the west side of said

road the 2nd a white oak the 3d a chestnut the 4 a black oak the 5 a chestnut 6 white oak 7 a little white oak the 8 a small chestnut the 9 a little black oak the 10 a little black oak the 11 a white oak the 12 a grate gray oak the 13 a grate black oak ye 14 a black oak the 15 a white oak 16 a grate chestnut by the brook 17 a little red oak north of ye brook 18th a gray oak 19 a white oak 20 a little walnut 21 a white oak the 22 a white oak the 23 a white oak the 24 a little black oak the 25 a little black oak the 26 a white oak the 27 a white oak the 28 a black oak the 29 a black oak near Josiah Robinson's the 30 a heap of stones on a stump in said Robinson's field the 31 a walnut the 32 a walnut the 33 a walnut the 34 a chestnut the 35 a white oak the 36 a red oak the 37 a little black oak the 38 a little walnut the 39 a little black oak south of Ebenezer Macintire's thence

east to said Macintire's barn thence east of said Macintre's house thence north to the meeting house plat said road is laid out two rods wide and said marks on the west side. Richard Dresser, Isaiah Blood Ebenezer Mackintire, Selectmen of Charlton."

The records, while always plainly understood as to their meaning, if taken literally, would indicate a lack of English composition unequaled in our day unless by a modern college graduate. The following appears under the date of September 4, 1780: "Voted and chose for governor of the state of Mass. Bay, John Hancock Esq—57 votes." April 2, 1781, "Voted and chose for governor of commonwealth John Hancock. 39 votes."

At a meeting held on the 9th of April, 1755, it was voted that the centre of the district "Should be the place to build a

meeting house upon if a suitable place and if not the nearest convenient place to the centre should be the place to build the meeting house for said Charlton on. It was also voted that the letter C, 'Se' should be the brand in Charlton to brand horses with.''

Between this date and January 16, 1758, when the location was finally settled, numerous votes of the same purport were passed and the people apparently being unable to agree among themselves, appointed a committee from other places to settle the dispute. This committee was composed of Dea. Thomas Wheeler of Worcester, Samuel Chandler, Esq., of Woodstock, and Col. Hezekiah Sabin of Thompson, and duly made a report which, however, the town refused to accept.

An article in the warrant for a meeting held Jan. 16, 1758, was as follows: "To see if the inhabitants of the district will

vote that the meeting house shall stand at a stake that is set up north of Ebenezer McIntire's house, and if not to see if the inhabitants of the district will agree on sending to the general court for the committee to find the centre of the district and to state the place for the meeting house."

At this meeting it was voted to build the meeting house at the stake a little north of Ebenezer McIntire's house. At a meeting held March 20, 1758, it was voted to build a meeting-house 50 feet long and 40 feet wide and to cover the whole with shingles, and one hundred pounds was granted toward the expense of building.

In 1760, a tax of 2 pence per acre for one year on land of non-resident proprietors was granted by the General Court to enable the inhabitants to finish the meeting-house. This tax amounted to 153 pounds, 4 shillings and 8 pence.

Although not complete, the house was in condition to be used as a place of worship in January, 1761. A meeting of the inhabitants for district business was held in it January 6. There had been expended upon it, as reported by a committee, two hundred and eighty-two pounds, five shillings, three pence and two farthings. In February following, twenty pounds was voted "Towards finishing the meeting-house." The Rev. Caleb Cartis was the first minister called, and it was voted to give him 133 pounds, 6 shillings and 8 pence as settlement and 60 pounds salary so long as he should supply the pulpit. Mr. Curtis was ordained October 15, 1761.

In 1762, pillars were put under the gallery beams and other improvements made, and in 1772, Jacob Davis was paid 163 pounds, 12 shillings to finish the inside, the work to be completed in 18 months.

Alterations were made in 1788, and again in 1790. In 1796, the Congregational society petitioned "for leave to move the meeting house from the spot where it then stood and to set the same fronting or adjoining the common either east or west and for liberty to make additional porches and a belfry and such other repairs as might be thought necessary." Salem Town, Esq., John D. Dunbar and Dea. Jonas Ward, were a committee to present the petition. The town granted the petition "on condition that a good deed of land should be first made and executed to the town and that one sill of the house should be placed within the line of the common and all without any expense to the town and the land so deeded should be sufficient to set said meeting house upon, with proper avenues to all the doors and with full liberty to go on the land adjoining as

much as necessary to repair said house."

The petitioners did not avail themselves of the privilege granted and the house remained where it then was until the second house was built. It was sold in 1803, to Levi Davis for three hundred and fifty dollars.

The town continued to support ministers of the standing order until 1782, when the town warrant contained the following articles: "To see if the town will vote to support for the future the public teacher, or teachers, of piety, religion and morality of said town by taxation or by free contribution." Voted "For taxation 55, free contribution 106." After this time no money was raised by the town for the support of preaching.

March 3, 1798, Israel Waters and other inhabitants of Charlton were incorporated

as a religious society by the name o the proprietors of the new Congregational centre meeting house of Charlton. A meeting house was built and had progressed so far that in May of the same year the following vote was passed, which speaks for itself.

"May 24, 1798. Voted to provide three stewards to provide such drink as they shall think necessary on raising day. Capt. Israel Waters, Capt. Abijah Lamb and Isaiah Rider were chosen stewards. Voted to choose three stewards to deal out the drink on raising day. Chose Isaiah Rider, Daniel Williams and John Spur, Jr. Voted that the carpenters shall inform the stewards on raising day what time to refresh. Deacon Jonas Ward built the house."

"Nov. 18, 1799, the meeting house was complete, and it was voted that the pews be drawn by lots. Voted and chose a com-

Old Brick Store. Burned in 1885.

mittee to prepare the lottery. Voted that three men be chosen, not belonging to the society, to draw the lottery. Chose Ebenezer Davis, Lieut. Benj. Versail and Capt. Moses Dresser. Voted to go into the new meeting house to draw the lottery."

"April 1, 1802. Voted to concur with the church in dismissing Rev. Erastus Larned." He commenced to supply about the middle of July, 1797.

"Nov.1, 1802. Voted to accept the proposal of the town to give thirty dollars per year for the use of the house to do town business in, the town to move the old house off the common, according to the vote passed."

"April 18,1803. Voted to give Dr. Ebenezer H. Phillips three dollars and seventy cents for taking care and sweeping the meeting house the year ensuing."

"October 20, 1803. Edwards Whipple

was preaching in town. Voted that all persons not proprietors that have seats shall be paid by the treasurer one cent and nine mills on the dollar for the sum paid for the year for each Sunday that we are deficient in preaching."

The following is a report of the committee to certify to the genuineness of the individual Babtists: "We, the subscribers, being chosen a committee by the society of the people called Antipedobaptists who met together for religious worship on the Lord's day in Charlton to exhibit a list of the names of such persons as belong to said society or congregation, do certify that Nathaniel Eustis, Robert Woodward, Nathaniel Jones, Ebenezer White, Ebenezer Davis, Daniel Bacon, Daniel Streeter, Comfort Streeter, Ebenezer Lamson, Richard Dresser, Isaiah Blood, Jonathan Wheelock, Benj. Alby, Reuben Morey,

Eleazer Wheelock, Daniel Richardson, John Thompson, James Dodge and Samuel Green do belong to said society or congregation and that they do frequently and usually when able attend with us in our meeting for religious worship on the Lord's day and we do verily beleive are with respect to the ordinance of baptism of the same religious sentiment with us. Dated Charlton, Aug. 29, 1774. Nathaniel Green, Elder; John Hill, Jacob Warren, Committee."

It has been stated that a tax of 2 pence per acre was granted, in 1760, on land of non-resident proprietors, to aid in finishing the meeting house. From the amount of this tax it appears that about 18500 acres or about two-thirds of the district was owned by non-residents.

After this date the population increased more repidly. The early settlers continued

active and influential in public affairs until after the close of the Revolution. Many of the later ones were men of marked ability, whose influence and public services extended beyond the limits of the town, but to name them would require the extension of this article beyond reasonable limits.

In 1782, there was contagion of small pox, which was the subject of town meeting action. A warrant for a town meeting, to be held April 19, 1782, contained an article as follows: "To see what measure the town will come into for their comon safety with regard to stoop the spread of the small pox which is now in said town." At this meeting Mr. Caleb Curtis was chosen moderator. "Secondly voted that Mrs. Town, wife of Major Salem Town, and her children, may have the small pox at Dr. Ebenezer Phillip's dwelling house

in Charlton." Thirdly the vote being putt to see if Benj. Vassel and Amos Goodell shall have the small pox at Dr. Ebenezer Phillip's and it passed in the negetive. Fourthly voted that no person belonging to Charlton or any other town shall have the small pox in the town of Charlton by inocalation on the pain and penalty in the law made and provided in such cases."

Charlton furnished a goodly number of men in what was then known as the French and Indian war, in 1757. Among the number were Jonathan Wheelock, David Wheelock, Jonas Hammond, Ebenezer Hammond, John Thompson, Nehamiah Stone, Jesse Smith, Uriah Ward and Job Weld, of the Gore. Enoch Jones, Noah McIntire, Philip McIntire and Richard Dresser, captain, from that part of the town taken from Oxford, were soldiers in this war.

At the first alarm, in 1775, the real beginning of the revolution, Charlton furnished no less than 86 men, who were as follows, by companies.

Minute men in Capt. Samuel Curtis' company, of Charlton, in camp at Roxbury, April 19, 1775, to Dec. 26, 1775:

Samuel Curtis, *Captain.*
James Lamb, *1st Lieutenant.*
John Nichols, *2d Lieutenant.*
John Coburn, *Sergeant.*
Caleb Amidown, *Sergeant.*
Benj. Alton, *Sergeant.*
Wm. Polley, *Sergeant.*
John Dresser, *Corporal.*
Richard Blood, *Corporal.*
Elijah Larned, *Corporal.*
Abel Waters, *Surgeon.*
John Edwards.
Nathaniel McIntire.

John Stevens.

John Fitts.

Daniel Needham.

Joshua Marsh.

Zebulon McIntire.

Nathaniel Blood.

Gershom Harwood.

Benj. Edwards.

David Dresser.

Richard Dresser.

Jonathan Streeter.

Joseph Amidown.

Eliakim Chamberlain.

Job McIntire, Jr.

Benj. Albee.

Joseph Clemence.

Daniel Goodell.

Ebenezer Twiss, Jr.

Caleb McIntire.

Jesse McIntire.

Nathan McIntire.

Clement Coburn.

Nathan Taylor.

Isaiah Blood.

John Goodell.

Reuben Harwood.

James Town.

William Stoddard.—41

Pay roll of Capt. Crafts' company of troops, in Col. Larned's regiment, marched April 20, 1775.

Salem Town.

Ebenezer White.

Peter Sleeman.

Elijah Blood.

Nathaniel Goodell.

Israel Molton.

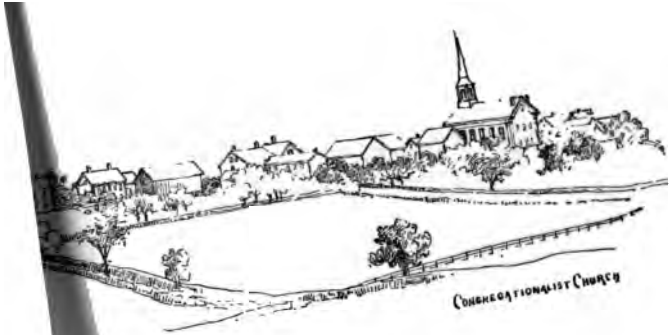
Ebenezer Town.

Elijah Ward.

Peter Wheelock.

Jonathan Weld.

Daniel Daggett.—11


Congregationalist Church

Men in Capt. Jacob Davis' company, which marched from Charlton to Roxbury in Col. Eben Larned's regiment, April 8, 1775.

Jacob Davis, *Captain*.

William Tucker, *Lieutenant*.

Abijah Lamb, *Sergeant*.

William Comins, *Sergeant*.

Jonathan Tucker, *Sergeant*.

Asa Wheelock, *Sergeant*.

Samuel Lamb, *Corporal*.

Reuben Davis, *Corporal*.

Samuel Robinson, *Corporal*.

Reuben Comins.

Ezekiel Wallis.

James Ward.

John Tompson.

John Doggett.

Peter Lamb.

Moses Coburn.

Daniel Alexander.

Benj. Adams.

Seth Wheelock.

Moses Morey.

Paul Rich.

Elijah Leavens.

Ezra McIntire.

Abner Mellon.

Ebenezer Chamberlain.

Eleazer Bemis.

Isaac Taylor.

Isaac Pratt.

Noah McIntire.

Asa Merriam.

Samuel Stone.

Joseph Laflin.

Daniel Streeter.

Stephen Weld.—34

Eighty-six men, at least, answered the first call from a town of scarcely over a thousand inhabitants, and altogether

Charlton furnished over three hundred soldiers for the continental army.

The town, in common with others throughout Massachusetts, was loyal to the patriots' cause. A few votes will suffice to show how early they cast their lot for independence.

Sept. 12, 1774. "Voted to provide 150 pounds powder, 300 pounds of lead, and 50 dozen flints. Voted 18 pounds lawful money to purchase the above stock of ammunition."

Oct. 10, 1774. "Voted that the covnant drawn up by Mr. Thom. Denny is satisfactory by a grate majority."

June 17, 1776. "Voted to support the continental congress in declaring independence of Grate Briton with our lives and fortuns if they shall think it expedient for our safety. Ezra McIntire and Caleb Anidown were added to the committee of correspondence, inspection and safety."

In common with other districts, Cl ton, from the time of its incorporatic 1755, had no representatives at the ger court, until Aug. 23, 1775, when by ar of the general court districts were n towns. The first representatives i Charlton to the Great and General C were:

1775, Isaiah Blood.
1776, Jacob Davis.
1777, Jacob Davis.
Caleb Amidown.
Isaiah Blood.
1778, Caleb Amidown.
1779, Caleb Amidown.
1780, Jacob Davis.
1782, Eben Davis.
1784, Eben Davis.

'he population in 1765 was 739.

1776 was 1310.

1790 was 1965.

1800 was 2120.

1810 was 2180.

1820 was 2134.

1830 was 2173.

1840 was 2117.

1850 was 2015.

1855 was 2059.

1860 was 2047.

1865 was 1925.

1870 was 1878.

1880 was 1900.

1885 was 1823.

1895 was 1887.

n 1816, a part of the town was taken by ıthbridge.

'rom 1776 to 1840, Charlton had a larger ›ulation than any of the adjoining ;ns.

Seventy-two guns were furnished for of Soldiers in the army by residents of town, Elizabeth Davidson and Pl Clemence each contributing a gun. B kets and clothing were also collected sent to the army.